



Minister for Water; Fisheries; Forestry; Innovation and ICT; Science

Your ref: Petitions 16 and 23
Our ref: 75-02879



Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Legislative Council Committee Office
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Mr Swinbourn

PETITION NO. 16 – OPPOSE FLUORIDATION CHEMICALS TO PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY IN KUNUNURRA

PETITION NO. 23 – FLUORIDATION OF WATER IN PORT HEDLAND

PETITION NO. 33 – FLUORIDATION OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES IN WA

Thank you for your letters dated 2 and 8 November 2017 inviting my comment on the above petitions.

In Western Australia, fluoridation is regulated by the *Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1966*, which is administered by the Minister for Health.

The Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Advisory Committee oversees fluoridation and makes recommendations to the Minister for Health who may issue or rescind directives as appropriate.

In terms of my portfolio of responsibilities as Minister for Water; the Minister for Health wrote to the Water Corporation with a directive to add fluorine to the water supply schemes for Hedland and Kununurra under the powers of the *Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1966*.

In response to those directives the Water Corporation installed the Hedland fluoridation plant in 2016 and it has been in operation since. The Water Corporation is currently installing the Kununurra fluoridation plant which is scheduled to commence operation in December 2017.

The Water Corporation is required to report fluoridation performance monthly to the Department of Health and quarterly to the Advisory Committee for the Purity of Water.

Water quality performance is publically reported annually in the Water Corporation *Drinking Water Quality Annual Report*.

As Minister for Water, I have no comments on the terms of the petitions or submissions from the principal petitioners.

I note that the Committee is appropriately seeking feedback on the issues raised from the Attorney General and the Minister for Health.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to comment on these petitions and I trust the information I have provided is of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Dave Kelly', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Hon Dave Kelly MLA
MINISTER FOR WATER

24 NOV 2017